



#WinterReadyDC

**DISTRICT
SNOW
TEAM**



GOVERNMENT OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

Welcome to Winter

Mayor Muriel Bowser's District Snow Team is introducing new equipment and operational techniques this winter to further protect the environment.

We will conduct a pilot test of a possible salt substitute known as calcium magnesium acetate (CMA). While salt's effectiveness at clearing snow and ice is well known, its negatives also are apparent. With our partner, the Department of Energy and Environment, we will test CMA in parts of Wards 4 and 8 to develop data comparing its effectiveness to that of salt.

Our new ten-wheel biodiesel dump trucks, known as heavy plows, will reduce greenhouse gas emissions. These trucks also can spray our hot mix of brine and beet juice, which helps to reduce the use of salt during a snow event. We began acquiring six-wheel dump trucks that pre-wet salt to keep it on the streets, which allows us to get a head start on clearing snow and ice.

The District Snow Team encourages residents and businesses to be our partners throughout snow season. Please prepare your family and pet(s), home, vehicle and yourself before snow falls. This brochure has valuable tips you can follow. Our Neighbor 2 Neighbor videos on snow.dc.gov have ideas from residents that you will find useful to get ready for snow season.

The "**Community Responsibilities**" section gives tips for safe shoveling, the snow shoveling exemption for seniors and people with disabilities, and how to contact **Serve DC** to volunteer to shovel snow for senior residents and those with disabilities.

The Department of Public Works (DPW) leads the **District Snow Team** with support from the **District Department of Transportation (DDOT)**, **Department of General Services (DGS)**, **Department of Corrections (DOC)**, **Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA)**, **Serve DC** and several other agencies.

Community Responsibilities

Seniors and Disability Snow Shoveling Exemptions

Residential property owners may be exempt from sidewalk shoveling enforcement if they live in their home and are at least 65 years old or are disabled. Residents who meet either of these criteria should go to shovelexemption.dpw.dc.gov to apply. First-time applicants and those whose previous application was rejected, must apply by October 15, 2021 for the two-year exemption period, November 1, 2021 - March 31, 2023. They may apply:

- Online at DPW's website shovelexemption.dpw.dc.gov
- By calling the Mayor's Citywide Call Center at 311. Applicants should receive a confirmation number at the end of the call.
- Residents can also visit www.311.dc.gov to make an appointment or download and schedule an appointment using the 311 mobile app available at the Google Play and Apple App stores.
- By mailing the completed Sidewalk Shoveling Exemption application, (obtained from shovelexemption.dpw.dc.gov) to: Solid Waste Education & Enforcement Program (SWEEP) DC Department of Public Works **250 E St. SW, Suite 430 Washington, DC 20024**

Seniors and Disability Snow Shoveling Exemptions

Mayor Bowser and Serve DC need your help clearing entryways and sidewalks for our seniors and residents with disabilities. Volunteers are deployed when there are four or more inches of snow. Visit snowteam.dc.gov for the Serve DC Snow team registration link.



Snow Shoveling Tips

- Do not shovel after eating or while smoking.
- Take it slow and stretch out before you begin.
- Shovel only fresh, powdery snow; it's lighter.
- Push the snow rather than lifting it.
- If you do lift it, use a small shovel or only partially fill the shovel.
- Lift with your legs, not your back.
- Do not work to the point of exhaustion.
- If you have a history of heart disease, don't pick up that shovel without a doctor's permission. If you feel tightness in the chest or dizziness, stop immediately.

For Your Home

- Caulk and weather-strip doors and windows.
- Have your chimney or flue inspected each year.
- Install a smoke detector and a battery-operated carbon monoxide detector.
- Keep an easy-to-read thermometer inside your home.
- Have your furnace system and vents checked by a qualified technician.
- Turn off water that flows through pipes to the outside of your home.
- For pipes inside your home that may freeze, keep cabinet doors open, allow a drip of cold water to flow through a faucet, and keep your thermostat set at 55° or higher.
- Use a snow rake or broom to remove snow from your roof.
- Keep drains, gutters and downspouts free of ice and snow.



For Your Family

- Have a battery-powered radio.
- Keep flashlights and extra batteries on hand.
- Have a sufficient supply of prescription and over-the-counter medications for family and pets to get you through the duration of a storm.
- Check that you have fresh first-aid supplies.
- Have a space heater, heating pads or hand/feet warmers.
- Have a three-day supply of water (one gallon/person/day), stored in sealed, unbreakable containers.
- Keep a three-to-five-day supply of non-perishable canned food in your cupboard along with a manual can opener.
- Check your fire extinguisher and smoke detectors.
- Have pet-friendly deicer, rock salt or non-clumping kitty litter to clear snow/ice from sidewalks and entryways.
- Have snow shovels and other snow removal equipment.

For Your Vehicle

- Keep your gas tank full.
- Check other fluids and replenish if necessary.
- When driving, stay 50 feet behind a snow plow.
- Keep kitty litter in your vehicle to provide traction if you get stuck on the road.
- Be sure you have scrapers to clear snow from windows and windshield.
- Maintain a charged mobile charger and connection wire.
- Keep blankets, socks, hats and gloves in your vehicle during the winter months.
- Keep flashlights and fresh batteries.
- Keep fresh water in unbreakable containers.
- Keep jumper cables.

Visit: ready.dc.gov/winterwx for more winter preparedness tips.



Visit snow.dc.gov for:

- The latest winter weather closures.
- Winter weather warnings.
- The nearest warming centers.
- Realtime maps of snow plow locations.
- Snow emergency parking information.
- Much more!



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